

THE REHEARSAL.

1. Safer to Speak for Episcopacy at Geneva than in London.
2. The Whiggs Blame the Genevians for not Understanding our Affairs.
3. They have Ruin'd our Dissenters, past all Retrieve. And made a Monster of them.
4. They have Involv'd themselves Inextricably.
5. They stand *Alone*, and are Divided from the *Kirk* in Scotland, as well as from all other Protestant Churches. They are *Muzzel'd*, that they Cannot Speak — But the Time is a Coming.

SATURDAY, February 15. 1706.

(1.) *Country-man.*

I See, Master, by the Letter you told me of last time, That they can Write more Freely against our *Dissenters* at Geneva than at London. Shou'd any here tell the *Dissenters* of the Unreasonable-ness of their Separation, he wou'd Presently be call'd an *High-Flyer* an *Enflamer*, and I know not what — The *Observator* wou'd be upon his Bones the next Moment, with all the *Oyster-Women* at *Billings-gate*, and the Power of their *Rhetorick* ! He wou'd be *Scout-ed* at *Elections*, Call'd an *Enemy* to the *Queen* and *Government*, and if he stood for any Place, he wou'd be sure to have the whole Interest of the *Party Rais'd* against him.

(2.) *Rehearsal.* It is well if *Geneva Escapes*, tho' so far off. What have they to do to Meddle in our Affairs ? Is this a Time of Day for them to be Courting our *Bishops*, pticularly the *Bishop of London*, to whom this *Letter* of theirs to the *University of Oxford* was sent, with High Complements to his *Lordship*, expressing the Great Veneration and Esteem they had for him ? How little do they know how Matters go here ?

(3.) But which is worst of all, they have left the *Dissenters* here to stand *Alone*. And instead of being their True and Faithfull Allies against *Episcopacy*, they are turn'd *Deserters*, and gone over to the *Enemy*. They have been *Hankering* a great while after *Episcopacy* and *Liturgy*, as near as they Can to that of the *Church of England*. Which it seems Gains *A broad*, whatever Ground she Loses at *Heme*. Mr. *Osterwald* has been Labouring this Point at *Nenf-Chattell* and other Places, of which we had some *Letters* Printed here by *High-Church*; And now it Prevails even at *Geneva*. Which Dashes our *Dissenters* in the Teeth with the Testimonies of *Calvin* and *Beza* (some of which I have Quoted before) Heaping all *Anathemas* upon our *Dissenters* who do not submit to our *Hierarchy* and *Bishops*, *Omnivoda Reverentia*, with the Greatest Veneration,

and Calls such, *Nullo non Anathematice dignos*, Worthy of all *Curses* and *Anathemas*. And that they are to be Reckon'd as *Mad-Men*. So that our *Dissenters* are Deserted by All they Call'd their Friends *Abroad*, and Left to stand upon their own Bottom; which Cannot find a Precedent among any of the *Re-formed Churches*. So *Defitute* is their *Cafe* ! They are *Excentrick* from the whole Earth, and *Contrary to all Men*. They are *Ishmaelites*, their Hand against *Every Man*, and *Every Man's* Hand against them. And this is the *Monster* we have now to *Quell*. Which upon Every *Blew* he Receives *Bellows* and *Roars HIDEOUSLY*, and Thrusts out 100 *Forked Tongues*, which *Spit Abundance* of *Venom*, but not one *Drachm* of *Reason*. And if we Hold to him a little, we shall gain all *Reasonable Men* from him. For he has nothing left to say, and all his *Pretences* are *Baffl'd* and *Expos'd*. He is *Forc'd* (at least *Seemingly*) to *Confess* that *Episcopacy* is a *Lawful Government*; And that ther is Nothing *Sinful* in our *Liturgy*, with which he Can *Occasionally Conform*. And yet Pretends to *Justify* his *Separation*, and to keep up a *Schism* upon this Account ! And at the same time will *Own*, That nothing can *Justify* a *Separation*, or make it not to be a *Schism*, but to *Avoid* something that is *Sinful*. This they strongly *Urg'd* against those who Separated from Them, and Urge it at this Day against the *Church in Scotland*, to Oblige them to Come over to the *Kirk*. Not Minding how it *Cuts the Throat* of their *Cause* in *England*, Even by their own *Confession*, while they *Own* (for the sake of *Occasional Conformity*) That ther is Nothing *Sinfull* in our *Communion*.

(4.) *Country-m.* They are Involv'd, Master, they have Involv'd themselves, like a *Wild Bull* in a *Net*. And the more they Struggle, they are Involv'd the more. The Poor and Shifting Reasons they give for their *Conforming* to the *Church of England*, tho' but *Occasionally*; And yet keeping up a *Schism* against her, Renders their *Cause* ten fold more

more Senseless and Deform'd, a Monster indeed! And it is strange to me, how any Man that can Reckon his ten Fingers shou'd not be Frighted at the Sight of it, and Immediately Run from it!

(5.) *Rehears.* Ther is a Cause behind will Involve them yet more, if more can well be. And perhaps Deprive our English Dissenters of the Advantage and Reputation of being one with even their Dear Brethren in Scotland.

Country-m. Have you no Mercy at all in you, Master? You have Disarm'd them of all Help from Geneva, or any of the Reformed Churches Abroad. Wou'd you Deprive them likewise of all Assistance from Scotland? Then they will stand Alone indeed!

Rehears. The Provincial Synods of the Presbyterians in Scotland have Abjur'd Episcopacy, and Enter'd into New Associations, even in this Reign (which have been Given us here in Print) and Engag'd their Lives and Fortunes to Root it out, pursuant to their Covenant, as well in England and in Ireland as in Scotland, to which their Covenant do's Expressly oblige them.

Now I wou'd Ask our English Dissenters, whether they are of the same Principle? As to their Inclinations and Endeavours when Time and Opportunity shall offer, I will Ask them no Questions at all.

In the next Place, their Acts of Parliament Establishing and Ratifying the Kirk, say, That the Presbyterian Government is most Agreeable to the Word of God. Then surely it ought to Prevail. And Episcopacy, must be an Unlawful Government, if it is not Founded upon the Word of God.

I desire the Opinion of the English Dissenters upon this Point too.

Lastly, (for this time) the Commission of the General Assembly in Scotland, have Declar'd against all Toleration, which they call Establishing Iniquity by a Law. And threatn'd the Parliament and their Posterities with the Judgments of God, if they Granted any Toleration to those of the Episcopal Perswasion.

And under the like Penalty of Guilt gave in their Representation or Protestation against the Parliament now, in their Ratification of the Union, allowing the Parliament of England to make any Law for Confirmation of the Church of England, as they had done there for the Confirmation of the Kirk. Which Consent of the Parliament of Scotland, if Given, they call Homologating or Consenting to the Establishment of the Church of England in that Part of the Kingdom now Call'd England. Which they Reckon'd a Great Guilt. This Representation is Given Us Verbatim in the Flying-Post.

Now I wou'd Ask our Dissenters in England, if they will own themselves to be of these Rigid Principles? Not only against all Toleration, but giving any seeming or Tacite Consent to the Establishment of the Church of England.

If they are against the Kirk in Scotland, in the above mention'd Particulars, they are Utter Enemies to the Kirk, in what the Kirk thinks most Essential, and have Sworn to. And they are under the Denunciation of the Kirk to the Heavy Judgments of God, as Bad as the Anathemaes which Calvin Thunder'd out against them.

And I suppose they will not think fit (at Present) to own all these True Presbyterian Principles of the Kirk. Tho' they own'd them All, and as Volently as the Kirk, once upon a Time.

But if they will not do it Now, or till that Time come again; Then till that Time, they must own Themselves to stand Alone, and Separated from all Reformed Churches whatsoever, not Excepting even that of Scotland.

Country-m. This is Cruel! You will make the English Dissenters (while they Dare not Speak out) the Worst and most Hypocritical of any in the World, Abandon'd and Deserted by all Protestants; To be neither Fish, Flesh, nor Good Red-Herring. They are Muzzl'd, they Dare neither Confess nor Deny! But they Pay it with Thinking. And they Hope that we may yet hear them Speak again!

And THEN.—

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